REPORT, &c.

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REPORT, &c.

LONDON, *January* 17, 1787.

AT a numerous and reſpectable Meeting of the Governors and Subſcribers to the New ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION among Proteſtant Diſſenters, for the education of their Miniſters and Youth, THOMAS ROGERS, Eſq. was called to the Chair; and the following Report from the Committee was read: viz.

GENTLEMEN,

AGREEABLY to the third Reſolution of the 10th of March, 1786, that a General Annual Meeting be held on the third Wedneſday of January in each year, to elect Officers, receive Reports, and tranſact other buſineſs reſpecting the New Academical Inſtitution, your Committee have now called you together.

Senſible of the great importance and utility of the deſign, which you have authorized them to carry into execution, your Committee have been anxious to diſcharge their truſt with fidelity and zeal, and have been unremitting in their endeavours to accelerate the completion of an Inſtitution, which promiſes the moſt beneficial effects with regard to the riſing generation, and the general intereſts of truth, piety, virtue, and religious liberty.

The neceſſity of hiring ſuitable apartments for the purpoſe of giving Lectures to ſuch Divinity Students as the Committee might think proper to encourage, until the Inſtitution be fixed in a houſe capable of admitting Lay-ſtudents as well as others, has been ſuperſeded by the

kindneſs of the Truſtees of Dr. Daniel Williams's Library, who have unanimouſly conſented to grant us the uſe of a room in that library during the preſent year.

Accordingly the Academical buſineſs commenced, in the beginning of October, with five Divinity Students, beſides one who is upon his own foundation. To thoſe encouraged by your exhibitions, another, well recommended, hath this month been added. The Tutors have regularly carried on a courſe of Lectures to the Students ſix days in the week. They are alſo inſtructed, one day in the week, in the principles and practice of elocution; a ſubject of much conſequence to thoſe, who are intended to be public ſpeakers.

Juſtice to the young men under your patronage, requires our informing you, that their abilities and application, as well as their religious and moral conduct, give us reaſon to expect, that by their future uſefulneſs they will do honour to your generous encouragement and ſupport.

With regard to the grand object of providing an Academical Houſe, or College, your Committee have beſtowed upon it the moſt aſſiduous attention. They have examined every place in the vicinity of the Metropolis which might, in their opinion, be likely to anſwer your views. They entered into ſeveral negociations for the purchaſe of houſes or for procuring a proper ſpot of ground, and they obtained from Mr. Blackburn, an able Surveyor and Architect, and a zealous friend to the preſent undertaking, the plan of a commodious building.

After a variety of endeavours, and much enquiry and deliberation, they have been induced to give a decided preference to the houſe and land in the pariſh of Hackney, which they have purchaſed for the uſe of the Inſtitution, and which they have reaſon to believe, will be found adequate to your wiſhes.

The houſe is a large and noble building, and in the moſt ſubſtantial repair. The land belonging to it, and in which it ſtands, is computed to conſiſt of about eighteen acres, encloſed within a brick wall. The walks, garden ground, offices, and other conveniences, correſpond in every reſpect to the houſe itſelf. The ſituation is in a healthful

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healthful and gravelly ſoil, well watered, and affording agreeable and extenſive proſpects. The principal apartments of the houſe are admirably accommodated for a library, lecture rooms, and the public meetings of the friends of the Inſtitution. It is alſo, in its preſent ſtate, capable of admitting a number of pupils: but as other buildings will be requiſite for accommodating ſuch a number of Students as there is reaſon to expect will be offered, it is neceſſary to erect an additional wing, which it is propoſed to execute as ſpeedily as poſſible. The purchaſe of this valuable freehold, with the fixtures, timber, and other articles upon it, has been five thouſand ſix hundred pounds; a ſum which enters deeply into the funds of the Society. But large as this ſum is, when it is conſidered, that an entire new building, with the land neceſſary for it, properly encloſed and laid out for the domeſtic and other uſes of the Inſtitution, would have been much more expenſive; that there was an extreme difficulty in procuring a ſuitable ſpot of ground; and that it would have required two or three years before the edifice could have been fitted for uſe:—When it is farther conſidered that this purchaſe is in the moſt deſirable ſituation which could have been ſelected; that it has a reſpectable and collegiate appearance; that it is adapted to the convenient attendance of tutors, governors, and viſitors; that it is well calculated for the preſervation of diſcipline; that it is near to ſuch different places of worſhip, as may be agreeable to the inclinations and choice of the Students, or of their Parents and Guardians; and that it has in it every capability of improvement, to whatever degree of extent and dignity the Inſtitution may hereafter arrive; your Committee have a full confidence that their conduct will receive your unanimous approbation; and that your zeal and that of the other friends to this great object will be exerted to give it the moſt effectual and liberal ſupport.

Your Committee, having been happy in attaining ſo important a point, have the ſatisfaction of informing you, that they have ſucceeded in another matter, of no little conſequence. They have engaged for Aſſiſtant reſident Tutor, the Rev. John Kiddle, of Tiverton, Devonſhire; an elderly gentleman of acknowledged abilities

and excellent character, and of an amiable temper, who has long been employed in the buſineſs of education, and who is not only well acquainted with the Greek and Latin languages, but alſo with the modern tongues. This gentleman, by being always upon the ſpot, beſides attending to the order of the family, will be able to give effectual aid to your other Claſſical Tutor, in bringing the Younger Students forward in that ſpecies of literature; an object which your Committee have very much at heart. Mrs. Kiddle, the wife of Mr. Kiddle, who is excellently fitted for the purpoſe by her prudence and experience, as well as by her active and cheerful diſpoſition, is choſen houſe-keeper, under the direction of the Committee, who take upon themſelves the care of the commons. Your Committee have the farther hope of engaging, as ſoon as proper accommodations can be provided, Dr. Rees to be Superintending Reſident Tutor.

By theſe arrangements, and others to be farther adopted (in the future appointment of a Mathematical and Philoſophical Tutor), in procuring all the neceſſary means of important and uſeful inſtruction, and in forming a proper ſyſtem of internal regulation and diſcipline, your Committee hope to eſtabliſh, upon the foundation already laid, ſuch an Inſtitution, as will not only furniſh a requiſite ſupply of Miniſters, but qualify young Gentlemen for filling the various ſtations and offices of civil life with dignity and uſefulneſs. This, they apprehend, to be an object of ſingular importance; and no meaſure that can contribute to the attainment of it, ſhall be diſregarded.

They have the additional pleaſure of acquainting you, that Mrs. Harris, of Honiton, Devonſhire, widow of the late Rev. and learned Dr. William Harris, the author of ſeveral hiſtorical works, hath made a preſent to the New Academical Inſtitution of her huſband's Library, containing many curious publications. This generous donation, and the uſe of the Exeter Library already obtained, your Committee regard as pleaſing auſpices that future inſtances will occur of ſimilar generoſity;—a large and well furniſhed library being highly conducive to the honour and utility of the Inſtitution.

Agreeably

Agreeably to former Reſolutions of the general body of the Subſcribers, your Committee have proceeded in eſtabliſhing a permanent fund, and prepared a proper deed of truſt for this purpoſe. And they now report to you that the ſum of £. 2,332, 5ſ. being the third part of the amount of the benefactions received in the laſt year, hath been paſſed or placed to the account of the ſaid fund in purſuance of the 3d Reſolution of the 21ſt of July laſt. They beg leave to add, that the preſent amount of benefactions, ſubſcriptions, and dividends on ſtock, the greateſt part of which has been received, is £. 8,547, 9ſ.

Thus far your Committee have been enabled to proceed; and they are happy in having ſo agreeable a proſpect before them. They are ſenſible that much yet remains to be done; that many regulations are to be eſtabliſhed, and various meaſures to be purſued, previouſly to the opening of the College at Michaelmas next. To theſe things they will zealouſly and diligently apply; and, when prepared, will take the liberty of convening you again, and laying before you an account of their proceedings.

While your Committee expreſs their moſt grateful ſenſe of the generous ſupport with which the deſign hath already been favoured, they beg leave to add, that farther aid is requiſite to carry it on to perfection; and this aid they have the full confidence of receiving from the nature, importance, and extent of the Inſtitution, and the munificent ſpirit of its friends and patrons. Several reſpectable perſons have added their names, ſince the laſt liſt of benefactors and ſubſcribers was printed:—And there can be no doubt but that others will come forward on this great occaſion;—the greateſt occaſion, which hath ever called forth the attention and the ardour of the liberal-minded among the Proteſtant Diſſenters; and one of the greateſt occaſions that has ever been preſented to the friends, in general, of truth and piety, of an enlarged and virtuous education, and of civil and religious liberty.

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The Report having been read, the following Reſolutions were moved and UNANIMOUSLY agreed to, viz.

I. THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Committee for the meaſures they have taken, as now reported; and particularly for the purchaſe, ſo judiciouſly made, at Hackney, for the uſe of the Inſtitution, which we highly approve of for the ſituation of our intended College, and which appears in other reſpects ſo well to correſpond with the magnitude and importance of the objects which we have in view.

II. THAT the Committee be inſtructed to make ſuch immediate addition to the houſe lately purchaſed at Hackney as they ſhall judge to be neceſſary for the proper opening of the College in September next, and to take ſuch other meaſures as ſhall appear to them to be requiſite for carrying their whole plan into execution.

III. THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Truſtees of the Exeter Library for their granting the uſe of it to this Inſtitution.

IV. THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mrs. Harris, widow of the late Rev. Dr. William Harris, for her very valuable preſent of his Library.

V. A doubt having ariſen as to the meaning of the Reſolution under which the General Committee was appointed in July laſt, Reſolved THAT the preſent Committee be continued till the third Wedneſday in January next.

VI. THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman.

(Signed)

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.

N. B. Subſcriptions for this Inſtitution will be received by the Chairman, or any other Gentleman of the Committee.

LONDON, *March* 21, 1787.

SIR,

THE Committee for eſtabliſhing the NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION have now the pleaſure of tranſmitting to you a farther Report of their proceedings, together with the Reſolutions of the General Meeting of Subſcribers held on the 17th of January. The information contained in this Report would have been communicated ſooner, if the Committee had not been deſirous of giving you, at the ſame time, an account of the meaſures that have been adopted in purſuance of theſe Reſolutions. By the Report you will find, that the houſe lately purchaſed is excellently adapted in a variety of reſpects to the purpoſes of the Inſtitution. Beſides the rooms, which will be appropriated to the library, lectures, and public exerciſes, as well as to domeſtic uſe, it contains ſeveral other very commodious apartments, which will be allotted for the reception of Students. Theſe are ſpacious and airy; and being fit for immediate reſidence, the Committee will have it in their power to accommodate, at the opening of the ſeſſion in September next, a conſiderable number of Young Gentlemen intended for civil and commercial life, beſides thoſe deſigned for the Miniſtry; of which they take this early opportunity to inform their friends. Their terms of admiſſion will ſoon be announced to the public.

But as there is reaſon to expect a much greater number of Students than the houſe in its preſent ſtate will admit, the Committee, in conſequence of the Reſolutions of the laſt General Meeting, have given orders for the addition of a new wing, conſiſting of ſeveral ranges of lodging-rooms and ſtudies, which will be executed with all convenient diſpatch. The plan is already formed by Mr. Blackburn, and a Sub-committee is appointed for ſuperintending the execution of it, under his direction, and agreeably to an eſtimate which he has delivered. We have the pleaſure to add, that the propoſed building has been much approved not only by the General Committee, but by many other friends of the

Inſtitution,

Inſtitution, to whom the deſign has been communicated. The wing now undertaken is, indeed, only part of a plan, which we hope to ſee executed, in its utmoſt extent, at ſome future period, by the generous patronage of the public. We have ordered the plan and elevation of the building to be engraved, copies of which will be ſent to the Subſcribers as ſoon as they are finiſhed, that the moſt diſtant friends of the Inſtitution may be able to form a judgment of our whole deſign, and be induced to unite with us in their wiſhes and exertions for its completion.

With that general concurrence which we may reaſonably expect, we have no doubt of accompliſhing the great object in view; and of eſtabliſhing an Inſtitution, the utility of which will be extenſive and permanent.

Whilſt the Committee have been anxious to provide ſuitable accommodations for the Young Gentlemen, who may offer, they have been no leſs aſſiduous in their endeavours to lay the foundation of ſuch government and diſcipline as may be effectual for preſerving their virtue and reputation. They have the pleaſure of informing you, that with this view, they have prevailed on Dr. Rees to accept the office of Reſident Tutor, and to take the direction and government of the Inſtitution. A houſe contiguous to the main building is now preparing for his accommodation, and will be ready at the opening of the ſeſſion.

The Committee are alſo digeſting a ſyſtem of internal regulations, derived as far as they are able to collect them from the wiſdom and experience of thoſe, who have been connected with ſimilar Inſtitutions.

They are determined moreover, to provide, at all times, ſuitable means of inſtruction in the various branches of Literature and Science.

Upon the whole they indulge the hope, that the ſituation of the New Inſtitution, and the advantages that accompany it with regard to health, morals, and mental improvement, will render it adequate in importance and uſe to the juſt expectations of its liberal founders, and recommend it to the patronage of the friends of truth and virtue, of their country, and of mankind.

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The Committee beg leave to add, that the completion of the plan which they have adopted will require farther aſſiſtance; nor have they any fear that their deſign will fail for want of encouragement and ſupport. They are ſolicitous to avoid both the extremes of parſimony and profuſion; and to approve themſelves to the friends of the Inſtitution by ſuch exertions at its firſt eſtabliſhment as may be likely to contribute to its credit and ſucceſs.

It is the higheſt ambition of the Committee to be faithful to their truſt; and to apply the donations and ſubſcriptions, committed to their diſpoſal, in ſuch a manner to the ſupport of this Inſtitution, as ſhall appear to their deliberate judgment the moſt effectual for the advancement and proſperity of the cauſe of Truth and Liberty, and for the reputation and advantage of the riſing generation. Theſe are the great objects to which their own views, in concurrence with thoſe of the other friends of the Inſtitution, are directed; and to the attainment of theſe objects they devote a very conſiderable portion of their time and labour. Happy, therefore, in the conſciouſneſs of their own integrity and zeal, and encouraged by the appprobation of thoſe who are beſt acquainted with the meaſures they are purſuing, they confide in your continued aſſiſtance.

We are, Sir, with great reſpect,

Your moſt humble Servants,

Signed, by order of the Committee,

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.

NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

THE Committee for establishing the NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION among Protestant Dissenters, for the education of Ministers and Youth, have now the pleasure to inform the public, that the spacious and eligible house, which they have purchased in the parish of Hackney, will be opened for the reception of Students on the 24th day of September next.

The situation of [illegible] recommended by a variety of local [illegible] and advantages; and the Committee will [illegible] every thing that may be conducive to the health, moral conduct, and literary improvement of the young Gentlemen, who shall be entrusted to their care. They beg leave to add, that it is a fundamental principle of this Institution, that it be open to persons of all Denominations, who will be encouraged in forming their religious sentiments without restriction or imposition.

The course of education will be comprehensive and liberal, and adapted to youth in general, whether they are intended for civil or commercial life, or for any of the learned professions. This course will include the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew Languages, Greek and Roman Antiquities, Ancient and Modern Geography, Universal Grammar, Rhetoric and Composition, Chronology,